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Political Declaration and International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

Report of the Main Committee

Addendum

Draft international plan of action on ageing, 2002*

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1. At its ____ meeting, on __ April 2002, the Main Committee approved the following changes to the text of the draft international plan of action on ageing, 2002 and recommended them to the Assembly for adoption.
2. Paragraphs 1, 3, 10 and 17 were deleted.
3. In each paragraph the words "Plan of Action" were changed to "International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002".
4. Paragraph 55 (a) was revised to read:

"Call upon Governments to protect, assist and provide humanitarian assistance and humanitarian emergency assistance to older persons in situations of internal displacement, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions".
5. Paragraph 72 (f) and its alternative texts were revised to read:

"Support the provision of palliative care¹ and its integration into comprehensive health care. To this end, develop standards for training and palliative care, and encourage multidisciplinary approaches for all service providers of palliative care".
6. After paragraph 72 (f), the three new actions proposed by Canada, as well as the Facilitator's alternative text to the Canadian proposals were deleted and replaced with the following text:

* For the text of the draft international plan of action on ageing, 2002, see A/CONF.197/3/Add.2, 3 and 5.

¹ The definition of palliative, which is based on that of the World Health Organization (WHO), is the active total care of patients whose disease is not responsive to curative treatment, namely by controlling pain and other symptoms of the disease and offering psychological, social and spiritual support to patients and their families.



“72 (g) Promote the establishment and coordination of a full range of services in the continuum of care, including prevention and promotion, primary care, acute care, rehabilitation, long-term and palliative care, so that resources can be deployed flexibly to meet the variable and changing health needs of older persons”.

7. The proposal of the Group of 77 (G77) for paragraph 84 (g) bis was deleted and the Facilitator's proposed alternative text was agreed upon.

8. Paragraph 85 bis was revised to read:

“The mobilization of domestic and international resources for social development is an essential component for the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002. Since 1982, reforms to promote the effective and efficient utilization of existing resources have received increasing attention. However, inadequate national revenue generation and collection, combined with new challenges regarding social services and social protection systems resulting from, for instance, demographic changes and other factors, jeopardize the financing of social services and social protection systems in many countries. There is also greater acceptance that the increasing debt burden faced by the most indebted developing countries is unsustainable and constitutes one of the principal obstacles to achieving progress in people-centred sustainable development and poverty eradication. For many developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, excessive debt servicing has severely constrained their capacity to promote social development and provide basic services”.

9. After paragraph 85 bis, a new paragraph 85 ter was inserted, to read:

“We note with concern current estimates of dramatic shortfalls in resources required to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.² Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, demands a new partnership between developed and developing countries. We commit ourselves to sound policies, good governance at all levels and the rule of law. We also commit ourselves to mobilizing domestic resources, attracting international flows, promoting international trade as an engine for development, increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development, sustainable debt financing and external debt relief and enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems”.

10. Paragraph 102 was revised to read:

“A positive view of ageing is an integral aspect of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002. Recognition of the authority, wisdom, dignity and restraint that comes with a lifetime of experience has been a normal feature of the respect accorded to the old throughout history. These values are often neglected in some societies and older persons are disproportionately portrayed as a drain on the economy, with their escalating need for health and support services. Although healthy ageing is naturally an increasingly important issue for older persons, public focus on the scale and cost of health care, pensions

² General Assembly resolution 55/2.

and other services have sometimes fostered a negative image of ageing. Images of older persons as attractive, diverse and creative individuals making vital contributions must compete for the public's attention. Older women are particularly affected by misleading and negative stereotypes: instead of being portrayed in ways that reflect their contributions, strengths, resourcefulness and humanity, they are often depicted as weak and dependent. This reinforces exclusionary practices at the local and national levels".

11. Paragraph 104 ter and the paragraph following it were deleted.

12. The last sentence of paragraph 105 was revised to read:

"Accordingly, progress in the implementation of the Plan should be contingent upon effective partnership between Governments, all parts of civil society and the private sector, as well as an enabling environment based, inter alia, on democracy, the rule of law, respect for all human rights, fundamental freedoms and good governance at all levels: including national and international levels".

13. The paragraph in bold immediately following paragraph 105 was deleted.

14. Paragraph 107 was agreed upon.

15. After paragraph 107, two new paragraphs were inserted, to read:

"107 bis. We recognize that globalization and interdependence are opening new opportunities through trade, investment and capital flows and advances in technology, including information technology, for the growth of the world economy, development and improvement of living standards around the world. At the same time, there remain serious challenges, including serious financial crises, insecurity, poverty, exclusion and inequality within and among societies. Considerable obstacles to further integration and full participation in the global economy remain for developing countries, in particular, the least developed countries, as well as for some countries with economies in transition. Unless the benefits of social and economic development are extended to all countries, a growing number of people in all countries and even entire regions will remain marginalized from the global economy. We must act now in order to overcome those obstacles affecting peoples and countries and to realize the full potential of opportunities presented for the benefit of all". [Based on General Assembly resolutions S-24/2, annex, para. 4 (Political declaration of the special session of the General Assembly)]

"107 ter. Globalization offers opportunities and challenges. The developing countries and countries with economies in transition face special difficulties in responding to those challenges and opportunities. Globalization should be fully inclusive and equitable, and there is a strong need for policies and measures at the national and international levels, formulated and implemented with the full and effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to help them respond effectively to those challenges and opportunities." [Based on the Monterrey Consensus, A/CONF.198/3, para. 7]

16. In paragraph 109:

- (a) The three sections were consolidated into one paragraph;

(b) In the second sentence, the square brackets and the words contained therein were deleted:

(c) The sentence beginning with the words "Other priorities" was revised to read:

"Other priorities for international cooperation on ageing should include exchanges of experiences and best practices, researchers and research findings and data collection to support policy and programme development as appropriate; establishment of income-generating projects; and information dissemination".

17. In paragraph 110, the brackets and the words in bold were deleted.

18. Paragraph 113 was revised to read:

"There is a need to encourage and advance comprehensive, diversified and specialized research on ageing in all countries, particularly in developing countries. Research, including age and gender-sensitive data collection and analysis, provides essential evidence for effective policies. A principal task of the research component of the Plan of Action is to facilitate as appropriate, the implementation of the recommendations and actions defined in the Plan. The availability of reliable information is indispensable in identifying emerging issues and adopting recommendations. Elaborating and using, as appropriate, comprehensive and practical tools for evaluation such as key indicators, is also necessary to facilitate a timely policy response".

19. Paragraph 114 was revised to read:

"International research on ageing is also needed to support policy responses to ageing and to the operational success of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002. This would assist in promoting international coordination of research on ageing".

20. Paragraphs 116 and 117 were replaced by the following paragraph to read:

"116/117. The Commission for Social Development will be responsible for follow-up and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002. The Commission should integrate the different dimensions of population ageing as contained in the current Plan of Action in its work. Reviews and appraisals will be critical for effective follow-up to the Assembly and their modalities should be decided as soon as possible".